

every American to do their part to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 2009*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of the Borough of Somerville, county of Somerset, New Jersey, as they celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the incorporation of their municipality.

Although the Borough of Somerville was not incorporated until April 16, 1909, its roots lie much deeper in American history. The town of Somerville was settled in 1683 by Dutch and English immigrants as part of Bridgewater Township. The town unwaveringly aided in the fight for the independence of our Nation, including housing General George Washington from December 1778 to June 1779 while the Continental Army was stationed at Camp Middlebrook.

Until the 1840s, Somerville was a sparsely populated agricultural community. However, with the completion of the rail line in the 1840s and the development of water power in the 1850s, Somerville rapidly developed. From the abundant red clay from which Somerville was built, brick making became one of the earliest industries.

Today, Somerville is an essential hub in central New Jersey, and the seat of county government, the Somerset Board of Chosen Freeholders. Its bustling yet quaint Main Street boasts numerous boutique specialty shops and a large variety of dining options. The borough also hosts many local recreational, cultural, and historical activities, including the annual Tour of Somerville bike race, the oldest bicycle race in the United States, and both the home of the historic Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage. Somerville has truly become a premiere destination for visitors.

The Borough of Somerville continues to grow and prosper. Currently, the borough is in the process of completing a large redevelopment project to include a new shopping center, town homes, and many other amenities on the grounds of the former borough landfill. The project is centered around the Somerville train station and envisioned as a transit village redevelopment.

Madam Speaker, for 100 years, Somerville has been a center for local commerce, not only the citizens of Somerville, but for all of New Jersey. Somerville is truly a unique and special part of New Jersey, and I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Somerville on their special centennial celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on October 7, 2009 I missed rollcall

votes 756, 757, 758, 759 and 760. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY'S PIZZA  
SHACK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor Mary's Pizza Shack, which has been selected as the Business of the Year by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Not only is Mary's Pizza Shack being honored by the Chamber, but the restaurant chain is celebrating its 50th year anniversary as a mainstay in Sonoma Valley.

Family matriarch, Mary Fazio, started the business in Boyes Hot Springs with a \$700 investment and pots and pans from her own kitchen. Her dream was to have a warm, family-friendly place where people could enjoy hearty portions of her family's favorite foods at reasonable prices. It was clearly a recipe for success. Today there are 18 "Shacks" in seven counties in Northern California and this third generation-run family business is branching out this year with a new fast/casual restaurant concept to compliment to original Mary's Pizza Shacks.

But Mary's is much more than a successful business model; it is an integral part of the fabric of the community.

For generations, it is been the after-game destination for every sports team in the valley, young or old. Countless victories have been celebrated there and losses have been made a little more bearable with a pepperoni pizza or two.

Since its inception, Mary's has given back to the community through its financial support of 50 community organizations each year, through its popular "Dine and Donate" nights, and its commitment to the valley's youth. As an employer, Mary's makes it a point to hire people with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, local businesses in the small communities throughout our two Congressional districts are much more than employers. They are the backbone of a support system for projects, non-profit organizations, and our youth and civic events that would not be successful without their involvement. Like many of the businesses selected by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce as its Business of the Year, Mary's Pizza Shack exemplifies this commitment. It is therefore appropriate for us to honor Mary's Pizza Shack, the Fazio family and all of their employees, both past and present, for 50 years of dedicated service to the Sonoma Valley.

INTRODUCING H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, DRUG  
PRICE COMPETITION ACT OF 2009

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Drug Price Com-

petition Act of 2009, a bill that will help achieve some of the goals that are essential to health care reform: ensuring fair market competition and increasing access to affordable drugs.

State-of-the-art drugs have undoubtedly improved and saved lives, and consumer demand for these drugs has certainly posed an economic burden on countless Americans. Although prescription drugs account for 10 percent of total health care expenditures, it is one of the fastest-growing segments within health care spending. Consumers are not the only ones who face the cost of prescription drugs. The federal government is now the largest purchaser of drugs in the United States and accounts for roughly two-fifths of the drug consumer market.

Generic drugs cost between 80–85 percent less than brand name drugs and comprise 70 percent of all drug prescriptions that are filled in the United States today. Many have acknowledged the role that generics have played in alleviating the burden of prescription drug costs on individual and government health care spending. The Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984 established a pathway for generic drugs to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, and enter the consumer market. However, some generic and brand name drug companies have exploited a flaw in this Act and have restricted access to generics.

Under the Hatch-Waxman Act, the first drug company that submits an application for product approval to the FDA receives a 180-day period of exclusivity in which no other generic company is allowed to enter the market. This application is also accompanied with a challenge to the brand company's drug patent. In response, brand companies often pay generic companies large sums of money to encourage them to postpone their entry into the market.

Generic drug companies frequently comply because they can retain their 180-day period of exclusivity even if they agree to enter the market years later than was first anticipated. Additionally, generic manufactures that were not the first-to-file have no incentive to challenge the brand company's patent and potentially open the blocked markets because they would not be able to enter the market until after the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, the Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 is a House companion to a bill that Senator BILL NELSON of Florida introduced earlier this year. The bill targets the root of the blocked drug market problem. It allows generic companies that win patent challenges to share the 180-day exclusivity period with the generic companies that first submitted an application to the FDA. However, no subsequent challenger would be eligible to share in the exclusivity reward once the generic drug has been launched.

If enacted, first-to-file generic manufactures would be less likely to accept a late entry date because this would mean that another generic manufacturer could win a patent challenge and share the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, generic medications are critical to managing everything from heart disease to battling life-threatening cancer. Stymied market competition and delayed access to generic medication pose serious health and economic costs to patients and taxpayers. The Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 will effectively correct the systemic flaw in the Hatch-